

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4-10, 12-14, and 17-22 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 4-10, and 12-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over WO 99/38167 indicated as corresponding to Kikuchi,¹ U.S. patent application publication 2001/0016108 to Itoh et al. (herein "Itoh"), U.S. patent 6,005,679 to Haneda, and U.S. patent 6,215,746 to Ando et al. (herein "Ando"). Claims 17-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kikuchi, Itoh, Haneda, and Ando as applied to claims 1, 4-10, and 12-14, and further in view of U.S. patent 6,357,042 to Srinivasan et al. (herein "Srinivasan").

The above-noted rejections are traversed by the present response as discussed next.

Each of the independent claims is amended by the present response to clarify the first menu thumbnail data is formed in its own first independent file, and second mark thumbnail data is formed in its own second independent file. In that respect independent claim 1 now further recites:

said first thumbnail data being generated as a first independent menu thumbnail file of only said first thumbnail data, and said second thumbnail data being generated as a second independent mark thumbnail file of only said second thumbnail data.

The other independent claims are similarly amended as in independent claim 1. The features recited therein are also believed to be clear from the original specification, see for example Figures 18-23. As shown in Figure 20 in the present specification as a non-limiting example, a menu thumbnail file is formed of only menu thumbnail data, which is representative of contents of moving picture data. Further, a mark thumbnail file is composed of only mark thumbnail data, which is data of a picture extracted as a characteristic picture or a thumbnail picture of a picture specified by a user. The above-noted features of including different

¹ The statement for the rejection appears to include an error in referring to Kikuchi as corresponding to U.S. patent 6,005,679. In fact Kikuchi corresponds to U.S. patent 6,553,180. If that understanding of the rejection is incorrect clarification is requested.

independent thumbnail files for each of such first menu thumbnail data and second mark thumbnail data is believed to clearly distinguish over the applied art.

The outstanding rejection recognizes the above-noted features are neither taught nor suggested by Kikuchi.² The outstanding rejection goes on to cite Haneda to:

... teach a system for arranging image data in a file by using a filing system having an image signal input to receive an image signal representative of a frame of image, and a unit for dividing the image into blocks of data (see Abstract), and a storage unit to store the data as an independent file (column 11, lines 14-16; column 18, lines 54-65).³

Applicants traverse the above-noted grounds for rejection and submit Haneda does not disclose or suggest the currently recited features of generating a first independent file of only first menu thumbnail data, and a second independent file of only second mark thumbnail data. In contrast to such features, Haneda discloses recording thumbnails with other data in a file. Haneda does not at any point disclose or suggest forming files of only thumbnail data, and particularly such that different types of thumbnail data are formed in different independent files. In that respect applicants specifically draw attention to Haneda at the cited column 18, lines 54-61 at which Haneda states:

Specifically, according to the present embodiment, the image files are classified according to a prescribed album format in a fashion similar to that of a photographic album, path images representative of features particular to the classifications are formed *together* with files of reduced images, so-called thumbnail files, established from the image files, and then those files are recorded together with the image files onto the optical disk 2400. [Emphasis added].

The above-noted cited disclosure in Haneda appears to indicate no file therein would include just thumbnail files, and particularly Haneda does not disclose or suggest the different types of thumbnail images formed in different independent files. The above-noted disclosure in Haneda indicates additional data are formed in files together with thumbnail files.

² Office Action of July 24, 2007, page 4, first paragraph.

³ Office Action of July 24, 2007, page 5, first full paragraph.

Again with reference to Figure 20 in the present specification as a non-limiting example, a menu thumbnail file is provided including only menu thumbnail data, and a mark thumbnail file is provided including only mark thumbnail data. None of the cited art disclose or suggest such features, and particularly Haneda does not disclose or suggest forming a file of only thumbnail data, and particularly forming independent files of mark thumbnail data and independent files of only menu thumbnail data.

Applicants also traverse the basis for the rejection citing Ando, and applicants respectfully submit none of the cited art discloses or suggests the further features that “wherein said menu thumbnail file includes only one thumbnail picture per a playlist, the playlist indicating a database of a group of playback domains of the input moving picture data”. With respect to that feature the outstanding Office Action cites Ando at column 12, lines 51-60.⁴ At that noted disclosure, Ando merely indicates the use of a playlist search pointer and a thumbnail pointer information. That disclosure in Ando is not at all related to a “menu thumbnail file”, and does not even address such a “menu thumbnail file” including “only one thumbnail picture per a playlist”. Thereby, that further grounds for rejection is traversed.

In view of the foregoing comments, applicants respectfully submit the claims as written distinguish over the applied combination of teachings of Kikuchi, Itoh, Haneda, and Ando. Further, applicants respectfully submit no teachings in Srinivasan overcome the above-noted deficiencies in Kikuchi, Itoh, Haneda, and Ando.

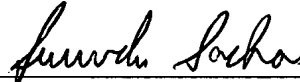
In view of the present response applicants respectfully submit that the claims as currently written distinguish over the applied art.

⁴ Office Action of July 24, 2007, page 5, last paragraph.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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